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of the latter is especially commendable for its extreme lucidity and for its suggestions for perfecting this instrument of statistics.

The organization of statistical bureaus and their labors constitutes the bulk of the work (pp. 145-436). The enumeration of the population receives special attention. The operations of the French census are carefully described. The explanatory material, instructions to enumerators, etc., is given in full, so that the reader can follow the operation step by step and can see the difficulties as they arise and the means taken to overcome them. After a minute account of the French census a general view is given of census operations in other countries. In like manner the forms and processes in use in recording movements of the population are minutely related and are accompanied with comparisons with other countries. As for the remaining statistical investigations of the French government they are treated in a more summary manner.

The concluding part of the work (pp. 436-558) is devoted to the elements of demography. Here the author deals with matters of familiar knowledge which have received treatment in English at the hands of Newsholme, Mayo-Smith, and others. Dr. Bertillon's treatment is distinguished by its extreme precision and by the emphasis which is throughout laid upon questions of statistical method.

The point of view which characterizes this work is a very happy one. Having in mind constantly the needs of the administrative officer, Dr. Bertillon has presented the concrete statistical work of the government in a logical order. His acquaintance with the details of actual statistical activity has led him to discriminate nicely between what is essential and what is unessential, while a graceful style sustains the interest of the work. The book will prove of the highest value not only to the future administrative officer in France, but also to the student of statistics who desires to familiarize himself with the criteria of statistical processes, and who seeks to increase his critical insight into the value of statistical data by a thorough knowledge of the methods employed in gathering them.

ROLAND P. FALKNER.

Hand-Book of American Constitutional Law. By HENRY CAMPBELL BLACK, M. A. Pp. xxiv, 627. Price, \$3.75. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Company., 1895.

This book is intended primarily for the use of students of law, and instructors in the law schools and universities. It contains a condensed review of the leading principles and settled doctrines of American constitutional law, whether arising under the federal constitution or the constitutions of the individual States. These

principles and doctrines are stated in the form of a series of brief rules or propositions, numbered consecutively throughout the book, and are explained, amplified, and illustrated in the subsidiary text, and supported by citations of pertinent authorities. The work is divided into twenty-two chapters. The first four are devoted to definitions and general principles, with some discussion of the nature of the American union, the establishment and amendment of the constitution, and construction and interpretation of the same. Four more are given to an exposition of the constitutional powers of the executive, legislative and judicial departments of the federal government. Four more to the federal power within the States and to State power and authority, so far as determined or limited by the federal constitution. Special chapters are devoted to the police power, power of taxation, the right of eminent domain, municipal corporations, civil rights, and political and public rights, guarantees in criminal cases, laws impairing the obligation of contracts, and retroactive laws. The book is a useful exposition of American constitutional law, although the necessary limitation of space, as well as the purpose and plan of the work preclude any attempt at exhaustive discussion, or minute elaboration of the subject. It seems likely to prove a usable hand-book to the student or practitioner.

The student of political science looks in vain, however, for any more thorough discussion of the fundamental constitutional principles of our system than is to be found in the ordinary legal text-book on the subject. The author sets forth as well established principles of constitutional law, certain opinions or ideas of judges in regard to the fundamental nature of our system which cannot be claimed to rank any higher than dicta. Thus he states that the constitutions of the American States are grants of power to those charged with the government. Such a statement is not borne out by the facts of the case, if one takes all the State constitutions into view. They are rather under our political system, limitations upon the powers of the government than grants of power; for under a representative scheme, in the absence of constitutional provisions to the contrary, the government, using that term in the widest sense, possesses all political power. There are, of course, many instances in which the State constitutions undertake to grant in express words certain powers to the government organized under them. But even if no positive grants were made, there is no doubt that under our system the government organized within the States would be considered as having such powers, and generally speaking, the State governments are considered to have such powers as are not prohibited to them by the Federal or State constitutions.

The treatment of the distinction between a confederation and a federal government, shows an inadequate knowledge of the later discussions of that subject, and in the characterization of the government of the United States and the several States, the distinction between pure and representative democracy is somewhat confused.

The author lays it down as a fundamental principle of constitutional law that the judicial department of the government is the final and authoritative interpreter of the constitution. This is not an exact formulation of the facts of our constitutional system. The judicial department of the government, according to the author's own exposition in other places, is called upon to pass on the meaning of the provisions in the constitution only when some question concerning them arises in a suit at law or equity before the courts. Very many constitutional questions cannot assume that form under our system, and when they cannot be thus brought before the court, the final and authoritative interpreter of the meaning of the instrument must be some one else. It would seem to be a better statement to say that that department of the government is the final and authoritative interpreter of the constitution, which in the course of its duties may give a meaning to the instrument which cannot be revised by any other authority. This is sometimes the executive, sometimes Congress, sometimes individual Houses of Congress, and sometimes the courts.

The author's discussion of the division of powers is no more satisfactory from the point of view of political science than the usual discussion of that subject in our American text-books.

EDMUND J. JAMES.

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Economic History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century. An inquiry into the material condition of the people based upon original and contemporaneous records. By PHILIP ALEXANDER BRUCE. Two Vols. Pp. xix, 634, 647. Price, \$6.00. London and New York: Macmillan & Co., 1896.

This work will be welcomed with pleasure by all American scholars who believe that history must be rewritten from the economic standpoint before the true sequence of social phenomena can be understood. Starting out with the ambitious project of writing an economic history of Virginia which should extend down to the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Bruce has narrowed the scope of his narrative so that it now embraces only the first century of the colonial period. He has been careful to confine his attention exclusively to economic history, and has left to other historians, or to a later time, the task of filling